

VENONA

~~TOP SECRET~~

DRAFT

USSR

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EXPEDITION TO BRING "FOREST BRETHREN" TO SWEDEN (1946)

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"...."[i] has reported that two motor-boats put to sea on 25th December heading for the islands of OESSEL [ii] and DAGO [iii] with the object of bringing back to SWEDEN the "FOREST BRETHREN[LEONYZ BRAT'YA]" [iii]

[23 groups unrecoverable]

Comments: [i] A.... : Unidentified. This covername was reported in a garbled form; it probably begins with A or AM.

[ii] OESSEL and DAGO : Islands now known as SAARE MÄÄ and MIIU MÄÄ which lie at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland.

[iii] FOREST BRETHREN : First occurrence. Many Estonians had fled to SWEDEN during the war, particularly in 1941 and 1944 to escape from Soviet rule. Resistance and partisan movements were reported to be still operating in 1945 in the Baltic Soviet Republics. This cover-name could refer to refugees or members of resistance movements.

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